CLAIMS

1. A method of making a luminescent pattern, the method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

· subdividing the pattern into an array (2) comprising a plurality of non-overlapping cells (3);

· on the basis of at least two luminescent materials that emit radiation of different colors when they are excited, and for each cell, determining a dot of luminescent material having dimensions that are no greater than the dimensions of the cell, and having a color that is appropriate for the radiation from adjacent dots in combination to reconstitute a corresponding zone of the pattern; and

· printing the dots (4) as determined in this way in the corresponding cells of the array.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the cells (3) of the array are of mutually complementary shapes.

3. A luminescent pattern comprising a series of non-overlapping luminescent dots of at least two luminescent materials emitting different colors when they are excited, the pattern being characterized in that at least some of the dots emit colors that combine so as to form at least one third color.

4. A luminescent pattern according to claim 3, characterized in that it includes luminescent dots that respond to different excitation wavelengths.

5. A luminescent pattern according to claim 4, characterized in that the luminescent dots form a variety of patterns as a function of the excitation wavelengths.

6. A luminescent pattern according to claim 3, characterized in that it includes luminescent dots

combined with dots that are made of material that is
visible in ordinary light.

7. A luminescent pattern according to claim 3,
characterized in that it includes luminescent dots
disposed in combinations that can be decoded by means of
a filter.

8. A luminescent pattern according to claim 3,
characterized in that the luminescent dots are combined
with a watermark.

9. A luminescent pattern according to claim 3,
characterized in that the luminescent dots are disposed
so as to form a digital watermark suitable for analysis
by a digital camera associated with image processing
software.